

Word Sort for Long-a Patterns, Compared to the Short Vowel Pattern

Begin this sort by asking students to sort the words by the way they sound in the middle. This should provide two groups. One for long-a and one for short-a. Students put the short a words aside after they have observed the pattern for short a. The next step is for students to sort the long-a words by their patterns (CVVC compared to CVV). In this exercise, they see that *ay* is a long-a, CVV pattern. Students can record this sort in their word study notebooks and go on word hunts to find similar words.

7.1_{web} long a (mail, slay) short a (cab)	praise	slay	mail
gain	tail	brain	grain
cab	has	strap	drag
glad	as	stay	pay
nail	train	jay	stray
claim	day	paint	faint